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Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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---------- 118509
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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, LU (MARCEL DI BARTOLOMEO AND LEON ZECHES)
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

REF: STATE 192620

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S FAVORABLE RESPONSE PER REFTEL TO LUXEMBOURG'S 0623. CAMILLE MONTAIGU IS ON VACATION AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER. WE WILL CONTACT HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PLAN AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM.

2. THIS MESSAGE NOMINATES FOR PARTIAL GRANTS TWO OTHER LUXEMBOURG JOURNALISTS WHO WILL BE COVERING THORN'S UN INAUGURATION. THEY ARE WILLING TO TRAVEL TOGETHER FOR MOST OF A TEN-TO-TWELVE DAY TRIP AND THEIR NOMINATIONS ARE THEREFORE CONTAINED IN ONE TELEGRAM.

3. THE FIRST NOMINEE IS MR. LEON ZECHES, FOREIGN POLITICAL EDITOR OF LUXEMBOURG'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER, THE "LUXEMBOURGER WORT". ZECHES WAS BORN DEC. 27, 1942, IN LUXEMBOURG AND IS A GRADUATE OF THE SORBONNE UNIVERSITY IN PARIS. HE ALSO DID POST-GRADUATE STUDY IN PARIS BEFORE JOINING THE "WORT" IN 1968. UNTIL HIS PROMOTION TO FOREIGN POLITICAL EDITOR SEVERAL YEARS AGO, HE WAS CULTURAL REPORTER FOR THE "WORT". HE HAS NEVER VISITED THE US ALTHOUGH HE HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN WESTERN EUROPE AND HAS VISITED
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CANADA BRIEFLY. HE IS ELIGIBLE FOR A VISA. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.

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4. THE SECOND NOMINEE IS MR. MARCEL DI BARTOLOMEO WHO IS THE POLITICAL EDITOR OF LUXEMBOURG'S SECOND LARGEST NEWSPAPER, THE SOCIALIST-ORIENTED "TAGEBLATT". MR. DI BARTOLOMEO WAS BORN JUNE 27, 1952, AND HAS WORKED FOR THE "TAGEBLATT" SINCE 1972. HE WAS EDUCATED IN LUXEMBOURG AND STUDIED JOURNALISM IN NANCY, FRANCE. HE HAS VISITED THE US ONCE ON A THREE-DAY TRIP TO MIAMI BEACH IN CONNECTION WITH A LABOR UNION CONFERENCE. MR. DI BARTOLOMEO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A VISA. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.

5. ALTHOUGH BOTH JOURNALISTS ARE RELATIVELY YOUNG, THEY ARE SEASONED REPORTERS AND ARTICLES IN BOTH PAPERS APPEAR UNDER THEIR BY-LINES. IN DISCUSSING THE POSSI-BILITY OF IV PROGRAM WITH MANAGING EDITORS OF THE TWO NEWSPAPERS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT BOTH ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF EXPOSING UP-AND-COMING YOUNG REPORTERS TO THE US AND THAT BOTH PAPERS PLAN TO RUN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THEIR IMPRESSIONS WHEN THEY RETURN. BOTH ZECHES AND DI BARTOLOMEO SHOULD HAVE AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE LUXEMBOURG POLTICAL SCENE.

6. GENERAL ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS FOLLOW:
A) BOTH PLAN TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 15 TO COVER THORN'S ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER 16, 17 AND PART OF SEPTEMBER 18. THEY ARE FULLY AWARE THAT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL IS AT THEIR EXPENSE AND THAT DURING THIS INITIAL PERIOD IN NEW YORK THEY WILL BE ON THEIR OWN.
B) ON AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 18 THEY WOULD FLY TO WASHINGTON, D.C. EARLY ENOUGH TO MEET WITH CONTROL OFFICER AND DISCUSS THEIR ITINERARY. THEY WOULD SPEND SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH 22 IN WASHINGTON.
C) EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 22 THEY WOULD FLY TO PITTSBURGH TO STUDY BRIEFLY US STEEL PRODUCTION (LUXEMBOURG'S MAJOR INDUSTRY IS STEEL).
D) THEYWOULD NEXT VISIT DETROIT FOR A BRIEF LOOK AT US AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY.
E) ON SEPTEMBER 25 THEY WOULD PROCEED TO BOSTON AREA
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WITH VISIT TO HARVARD OR MIT. ZECHES AT THIS POINT WOULD LIKE TO VISIT A SMALL NEW ENGLAND TOWN, PERHAPS CONCORD, WHILE DI BARTOLOMEO WOULD PREFER TO INVESTIGATE RACIAL PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS IN THE BOSTON AREA.
F) ON EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 26, TWO GRANTEES WOULD SPLIT WITH ZECHES GOING TO NEW YORK FOR WEEKEND AND RETURN TO LUXEMBOURG MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29. DI BARTOLOMEO, WHO IS ABLE TO SPEND A FEW MORE DAYS IN THE US, WOULD

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LIKE TO GO TO NEW ORLEANS FOR WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28, DEPARTING EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 29 FOR HOUSTON. HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT NASA AND PERHAPS A SMALL-TO-MEDIUM-SIZED TOWN.
G) DI BARTOLOMEO THEN PROPOSES RETURNING TO NEW YORK FOR TWO-THREE DAY VISIT, DEPARTING FOR LUXEMBOURG EVENING OF OCTOBER 3.

7. IN ADDITION TO SPECIFIC VISITS OUTLINED ABOVE, BOTH MEN WOULD APPRECIATE CONTACT WITH AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, IF POSSIBLE THE "NEW YORK TIMES" AND THE "WASHINGTON POST". IN THIS CONNECTION MR. NICHOLAS THIMMESCH, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FOR THE "LOS ANGELES TIMES", HAS FAMILY CONNECTIONS IN LUXEMBOURG AND WAS RECENTLY HERE FOR A VISIT. HE INDICATED HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH LUXEMBOURG JOURNALISTS WHEN IN WASHINGTON, BOTH NOMINEES WILL APPRECIATE HOSPITALITY FROM AMERICAN FAMILIES.

8. IN PLANNING SPECIFICS OF PROGRAM, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DI BARTOLOMEO'S INTEREST TENDS MORE TO SOCIAL ISSUES, E.G., RACIAL PROBLEMS, DRUGS, UNEMPLOYMENT AND URBAN PROBLEMS. SINCE "TAGEBLATT" IS PARTLY OWNED BY LUXEMBOURG'S LARGEST TRADE UNION (LAV), DI BARTOLOMEO WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH LABOR UNION LEADERS. ZECHES IN CONTRAST IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN CULTURAL EVENTS AND INSTITUTIONS. IN SOME INSTANCES WHEN THE TWO ARE TRAVELLING TOGETHER, THEY MAY DESIRE TO SEE DIFFERENT THINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN PITTSBURG, ZECHES WILL PROBABLY BE MORE INTERESTED IN MUSEUM OR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA THAN IN DRAWN-OUT VISIT TO STEEL MILL. BOTH WOULD APPRECIATE STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON AND SOME EXPO-SURE TO WHITE HOUSE AND CAPITOL HILL.
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